

August 28, 2017

Chair and Members
Community and Protective Services Committee,

Subject: Letter of Support for London Becoming a ‘Safe City’

I am writing on behalf of the Sexual Violence Prevention services at Fanshawe College to convey our support for the project being proposed by the Mayor’s Office of the City of London, alongside Anova, to take part in the UN Women’s Safe City Initiative.

Research reveals that females aged 15-24 are experiencing sexual assault at higher rates than other age groups. Given that many college students fall within this age group, it is imperative that we continue to work with our campus and community partners to eradicate sexual violence and harassment, and the underlying rape culture that still exists on campuses across the country. We also know that specific populations such as females with disabilities are much more likely to experience sexual violence than persons without disabilities. Fanshawe College is proud to play our part in leading a progressive and comprehensive response to supporting individuals impacted, and providing ongoing education, prevention, and awareness initiatives to shift culture and promote respectful relationships, gender equality and safety in public places.

The College is committed to providing and maintaining an environment in which sexual violence is not tolerated. Through policies, resources, education, and community support the college community is dedicated to assisting students, staff, and faculty in identifying ways to recognize, respond to and prevent sexual violence. Fanshawe provides a range of resources and programming to students, staff and faculty affected by sexual violence and is committed to enhancing safety, education and supports available to the college community and the larger London community.

There has been recent attention in the media to local instances of sexual violence - on our city’s public transit, and with the ongoing review of “unfounded” sexual assault cases by London Police Services. We believe there is a key opportunity for Council and the Mayor’s Office to call attention to the issue of sexual violence in London, particularly to sexual violence and harassment in public spaces. Our City has taken progressive stances on many social justice issues and we feel that we are well primed to take leadership in addressing gender-based sexual violence.

We are incredibly energized by the pledge from the Mayor's Office and Anova to take the lead in the adoption of this strategic approach to sexual violence prevention and response, and we are committed to helping to inform and support the Safe City initiative for London.

We are pleased to provide this letter of support and we look forward to working in partnership with all stakeholders on making London a 'Safe City'.

Sincerely,



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